GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5202
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
SHORTAGE OF WATER IN BIRD SANCTUARIES AND LAKES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bird sanctuaries,lakes and parks are facing shortage of water in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to get sufficient water in these sanctuaries, lakes and parks?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) Mostly all the bird sanctuaries, takes and parks depend on rainfall for water. Due to fluctuations in precipitation, water availability keeps on changing from time to time.However,except Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, no other State/UT Government has reported shortage of water in bird sanctuaries.

(c) Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes- Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger,Project Elephant and National Lake Conservation Plan for various activities aimed at the conservation and development of Protected Areas and lakes including augmentation of water supply.

To maintain the wetland character of Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, 550 million cubic feet of water is required annually. As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, the wetland character of the Park can be maintained by harnessing about 200 million cubic feet of water from Chiksana canal and Ajan dam and about 350 million cubic feet of water through the proposed Govardhan drain project. In addition, about 310 million cubic feet of water per year for initial four years and about 62.5 million cubic feet of water per year after four years would also be made available to the Park from the Dholpur- Bharatpur Chambal drinking water project.